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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Apart from the question whether any official was prosecuted, is it not a fact that but for the indirect connivance of the officials such large-scale cutting was impossible and if it were so, what steps do the Government propose to take to tighten up matters?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : A separate question may be put to my Hon. Colleague in charge of Forests. I am concerned only with the prosecutions. With reference to the preservation of forests and the further action to be taken, a separate question may be put.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : On what basis was the valuation of the illegally cut timber made by the Government? It was stated that trees worth about rupees five lakhs were cut and it appeared in responsible dailies like "Mathrubhumi."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : After looking into the physical features in the forest with regard to the cutting of trees, an estimate was made. The cases detected also give an approximate idea of the cuttings. It is only on that basis that this calculation has been made. I am not prepared to say that this is the correct estimate. There might be some cases which have not been detected.

Cattle Farms

* 2879 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of barren cows made fertile during the years 1953–54 in the Government Cattle Farms in the State;

(*b*) the nature of propaganda done by the Animal Husbandry Department on this and its effect?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The number of barren cows made fertile during 1953 and 1954 in the Government Cattle Farms in the State is 44 and 90 respectively.

(*b*) In the Government Livestock Farms the animals are examined for sterility systematically when they do not take the bull and suitable remedial measures are taken, as and when necessary.

In the Key Village and Artificial Insemination Centres every cow or she-buffalo is examined for sterility and all those suspected for sterility are treated and then inseminated.

In the Veterinary Institutions animals brought for sterility are examined and given suitable treatment and owners are given necessary advice.

In view of the Artificial Insemination work in Key Villages on a large scale in the urban and rural areas, the sterility problem which had not been taken up in the past is at present being tackled very extensively and the results are encouraging. The itinerant staff in

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the course of their tour keep a close watch over the sterile animals in the villages and advise the farmers to have the sterile animals treated according to the causes responsible for the condition.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP: Have this Government taken any notice of the expression of opinion by the Head of a State that he saw once the process of artificial insemination and that he does not want to see it again?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I am not aware of it.

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN: பால் கொடுக்கும் காலத்தையும், பால் அதிகமாகக் கொடுப்பதற்கும் அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது பரிசோதனை செய்திருக்கிறதா? அப்படியென்றால் இதைப்பற்றி அவர்கள் விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் யோசனை என்ன?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: இது பற்றி ஒரு தனி கேள்வி கேட்கலாம்.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Ministers in charge of Health and Religious Endowments are not able to be present to-day. Therefore, questions relating to the portfolios of those Ministers will be taken up the next day.

(* 2880 *Q*.—Postponed to 29th November 1955.)

Taxation for improvements to irrigation tanks

* 2881 *Q*.—**Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM**: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Half-yearly Irrigation Conference held at Coimbatore on 2nd May 1955 recommended to the Government to authorize the local irrigation Committees to collect taxes for silt clearance in and repairs to the irrigation tanks in the Coimbatore district under the Kudimaramath system; and

(*b*) if so, action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) The subject did not come up for discussion at the Half-yearly Irrigation Conference held on 2nd May 1955.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM: கிராமங்களில் உள்ள குளங்கள் கெட்டுப் போய், அவற்றை "ரிப்பேர்" செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காருக்கு எழுதினால், ரிப்பேர் செய்வதற்கு அதிக நாட்கள் ஆகின்றன; மூன்று வருஷங்கள் ஆகின்றன. ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் உள்ள குளங்களுக்கு "இர்ரிகேஷன் கமிட்டிகள்" இருக்கின்றன. அந்தக் கமிட்டியினர்தான் அந்தக் குளங்களிலுள்ள தண்ணீரையெல்லாம் விவசாயிகளுக்குப் பகிர்ந்து கொடுப்பதற்குப் பொறுப்பாளிகள். அந்தக் கமிட்டிகளே குளங்களிலுள்ள வண்டல்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதன்மூலமாக வரியை வசூலித்து, அந்தக் குளங்களை "ரிப்பேர்" செய்வதற்கு ஒத்துக்கொண்டால், ரிப்பேர் செய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய சௌகரியங்கள் இருக்கும். சீக்கிரமாகவும் ரிப்பேர் செய்யலாம். காலதாமதம் ஆகாது. ஆகையால் அந்தத் திட்டத்தை அமுல் நடத்த சர்க்கார் ஒத்துக்கொள்வார்களா?